



## The Bassano Mail

Subscription \$2.00 a year; Foreign \$2.50  
Published at Bassano, Alberta, Canada  
Nesbitt Publishing Company, Publishers  
James L. Nesbitt, Editor

May God forbid our saying on this page the things that merited praise. We would be humble in our opinions; but we would not be unmindful of the immutable laws of cause and effect; for therein lies the wisdom of the ages.

### FORMS OF GOVERNMENT

Great Britain clings fervently to democratic government as it has been developed in that country, while other great nations seek "strange gods" in the form of Fascism and Communism.

The war and the depression have wrought changes and human beings have been seeking methods of government which will give them greater security than what they have been accustomed to.

Communism and Fascism are both examples of the totalitarian State. They are both dictatorships, but of a different kind. They assert the necessity for a ruling class and a subject class, an elite which commands and a populace which obeys.

After all this is not a new doctrine of government. Plato, the Greek philosopher, believed that a ruling class and a totalitarian State are necessary if anarchy and misery are to be avoided.

Plato demanded three conditions for human happiness: first, a ruling class fanatically devoted to their political and moral principles; second, the rigid exclusion from that ruling class of the profit-motive; and third, the granting to the ruling class of dictatorial powers.

By means of education and by putting the ruling class under the control of the philosopher, the man who knows the science of society and understands the laws of the universe, Plato believed that this class could be prevented from degenerating and abusing their power for personal ends.

The whole purpose of Plato's Ideal State is to enable reason to plan human life and to free it from the domination of the profit-motive, and the two results—class war and imperialism. To do this he wanted a Dictatorship of Reason.

Of course the ideals of democratic government, as developed under the influence of the British, was to raise the proletariat's position in the state, to educate him to the responsibilities of self-government, and to provide him with freedom of action on a wide scale.

The British viewpoint is that people will work better under freedom than under regimentation, that the requirements of the individual will spur him on to energetic action and this will benefit everybody. A properly educated body of voters, the British contend, will make some mistakes but in the end will choose wiser government than any bureaucracy, no matter how strongly governed by reason, can provide.

The rapid advancement of the Platonic idea of government as represented by the totalitarian States of Russia, Germany and Italy, will bring it into conflict with the advocates of democracy. Both systems may be changed in the process and let us hope that this will not mean that the boasted freedom of the British will not be materially curtailed.

### DISTRIBUTION THROUGH CHEAPNESS

Fifty years ago Charles Martin Hall discovered an electrolytic process. Previous to that discovery aluminum, although the most abundant metal on the earth's crust, was infinitely precious. Crowned rulers in Europe treasured it above silver and gold.

Today aluminum is in use everywhere and its quality of lightness has enabled it to supplant other metals in many fields. The price today is around 20¢ a pound compared with \$500 a pound prior to Hall's discovery. This drastic scaling down of the price of aluminum brought the metal into constant daily use by millions of people, developed vast industries dependent upon the production, refinement, manufacturing and distribution of aluminum products and created employment for hundreds of thousands of people.

### THE MERCANTILE CODE

The proposed Alberta mercantile code will be useful if unethical practices can be done away with and false advertising, as well as fake sales, barred.

But if costs are raised in the process so that the consumers must pay more for their purchases the reaction will be unsatisfactory. And if merchants are regimented willy-nilly into a dictatorial bureau, and subjected to constant spying and inspection, failure will be inevitable.

### WRECKING ROMANCE

Queen Helen, the embodiment of pulchritude in the early days of Greece, who figured in one of the most famous "triangle" cases of history, thereby causing the ten-year Trojan war, may have been a mythical figure, according to Cincinnati archaeologists now conducting explorations in the Near East.

In such a manner have scientists destroyed only too many of our legendary heroes and heroines. It seems a pity that the romantic tale of the lovely Helen and Paris should be thus rudely thrust into the limbo of forgotten things.

Helen was the daughter of Zeus and Leda, according to the immortal Homer. She was married to King Menelaus, but the handsome Paris stole her love and carried her away to Troy. Menelaus obtained the assistance of his brother kings of Greece and besieged Troy for ten years, finally obtaining victory by a ruse. The invaders built a huge wooden horse and had it dragged into the impaled city during a lull. The horse was hollow and filled with Grecian warriors. At the proper time the soldiers clambered out through a cunningly constructed door. Attacked from without and within, Troy surrendered.

Homer's Odyssey tells the story in full romantic setting. It is a thrilling tale and we prefer to believe it—Cincinnati archaeologists to the contrary notwithstanding. No mere scientists can dispel the glory of Argive Helen, whose beautiful face

... launched a thousand ships  
And burned the topless towers of Ilium."

### HOW IT CAME ABOUT

Authorship of the little monograph "The Choice" is unknown, but it remains a classic of its kind, eternally worth consideration.

When the Creator had made all the good things, it seemed there was still some dirty work to do, so He made the beasts, and the reptiles and the poisonous insects; and when He had finished He still had some old scraps left over which were too bad to put into the rattlesnake, the hyena, the scorpion, and the skunk, so He put these together, covered the whole with suspicion, wrapped it with jealousy, marked it with a yellow streak and called it a KNOCKER.

This product was so fearful to contemplate that He had to make something to counteract it, so He took a sunbeam, put into it the heart of a child, the brain of a man, wrapped it in civic pride, covered it with brotherly love, made it a believer in equality and justice, a worker for and supporter of every good thing in the community, and called it a BOOSTER.

Ever since, mortal man has had the privilege of choosing under what banner he will serve.

### EASTER TIME

The festival of Easter antedates Christianity, but the followers of Christ adopted it to represent the Resurrection and the hope of immortality.

Ancient peoples were wont to celebrate the "return of the Sun", after the end of the winter solstice, a time of the year which coincides with the modern Easter.

In ancient Sweden people burned bonfires on Walpurgis to welcome the returning sun. All throughout Europe and Asia similar festivals were held when winter's cold and bluster had departed and snow and ice melted before the strengthening rays of the hospitable sun.

Nature was always a great mystery to our ancestors in the early years of the human race. But they understood the seasons and the year's were caused by the sun's distance from the earth and they were very much afraid that something might disturb the regularity of these.

### THE ALBERTA BOND DEFAULT

The consequences of the default in paying of some \$3,000,000 Alberta government bonds, due April 1, cannot be determined at present.

Orthodox economists state that the default will result in the destruction of Alberta's credit, and will hinder even the financing of the Canadian government.

Others insist that the province's credit was strained to the uttermost anyway, and that the limit in taxation was near at hand. The same condition is true concerning the other western provinces.

The passage of time will prove out the forecasts. It is only by actual experiences that people learn truths.

Wonder if the holders of those Alberta bonds that fell due on April 1 remembered it was April Fool Day?

Headline writers for years have been using the word "solon" to describe law-makers; at last they really have one in the Alberta legislature, Mr. Solon Law—Edmonton Journal.

### LIGHTER VEIN

A bee's sting is 1-32 of an inch in length. The other three feet is imagination.

A man wandered into a tennis tournament the other day at Miami, and set down on the bench. "Whose game is this?" he asked. A shy pretty little thing sitting next to him looked up hopefully and replied "I am."

Editing a paper without ruffling anybody's feelings, observes the editor of the Prairie Free Press, is like beating without a hook on your line; you get lots of recreation, but no results.

Foreman: "Wot's up, Bill, 'art yer self?"

Bill: "No; gotta nail in my boot."

Foreman: "Why doncher take it out?"

Bill: "Wot! In me dinner hour?"

A southern Alberta editor, just about to go to press, "pled" a couple of articles, one concerning an auction sale and the other a write-up of a wedding. He asked the office devil to get the two articles together and hand him how he did it.

"William Smith and Miss Lucy Anderson were disposed of at public auction at my barn one mile east of a beautiful cluster of roses, and two white calves before a background of farm implements too numerous to mention in the presence of about 70 guests including two milk cows, six mules and a bob sled. Rev. Jackson tied the nuptial knot with 200 feet of hay rope, and the bridal couple left on one John Deere gang plow for an extended trip home to suit purchasers."

"When I was having my vacation last summer," says James K. Hackett in the Green Book magazine, "I spent a lot of time on a farm up in the state of Maine."

"One day the farmer went to the county fair and his hard-working wife remained at home to see that the farm suffered no loss during his absence. He returned home just about dark, and coming out on the porch, where the wife was taking a little quiet rest, he asked:

"I'm about tired out, Sarah. Is the cow in the barn?"

"Yes, long since," replied the wife.

"Is the horse unharmed and all fed?" he queried.

"Yes,"

"Foras locked up?"

"Yes,"

"Wood chopped for morrin'?"

"Yes,"

"The them ducks dressed and plucked for market?"

"Yes,"

"Wagon wheel mended and ready to start in?"

"Yes,"

"Well, then," he concluded, with a sigh of relief, "let me have my supper, Sarah, as I'll turn in. Farming is beginning to tell on me."

"And now, dear," said the wife, "let us have a clear understanding about our affairs," said the practical young man, to his bride. "Do you wish to be president or vice-president?"

"Neither," the girl replied, "I'll be just the treasurer."

### Farm Implement Prices

It will not be cheerful news to many more to learn that implement prices are on the up-grade.

In some cases the new price is substantially higher than the old. This is true of seeders and binders, in particular.

The tariff was supposed to rectify this condition but the trade treaty with the United States will not affect price one particle because prices are higher in the United States than in Canada, due to NRA codes.

The federal parliament is going to investigate the proposed increases but we cannot see how much can be done about it.

The Henry-Harris company has lost something like \$24,000.00 in the past six years. So the committee will not be able to show profiteering.

The NRA codes increased prices in the United States. A comparison of retail prices in Greta, Manitoba, and Neche, North Dakota, shows the following:

A drill sells at a price \$3 cheaper in Canada than in the U.S.A. A harrow is \$17 cheaper in Canada. A 5-foot seed and weed in Manitoba and \$100 in North Dakota. A cultivator is \$50 in Manitoba and \$90 in North Dakota.

So what's going to be done about it? Our answer is "nothing!"

When codes and other such legislation are brought into effect prices rise and the farmer simply has to pay up or do without.

"Argue around the circle as you like the inevitable result is the point where the wealth producer pays."—Hanna Harold.

### A Tough Winter

The big, tough winter of 1935-36 promises to become famous in reminiscence. Grandchildren in 1960 may hear of it as the year of the big cold.

"Shucks, Sonny, you don't call this cold do you? You should have been around in 1928. Petch Grandpa that book of newspaper clippings..."

"It got so cold as 46 degrees below zero at Big River in February, '28, when the mercury dropped 20 degrees in an hour. At Hulse Lake the minimum temperature didn't get above 29 degrees below for 17 nights and only one day at noon hit zero for a high."

"Why, they found a rabbit sitting upright, frozen to death, in a Regina graveyard. Bears in the Calgary snow crept into their dens to hibernate on the first time in seven years."

"... Pay attention and quit swinging on Grandpa's beard."

"Some places in the west they had blizzards so blinding railroad engineers couldn't find the stations. In the Dakotas, the drifts froze so hard they used dynamite instead of snow shovels. Ranchers burned their fence posts when the fuel gave out. A minister and his wife stayed alive by hibernating boards. A farmer saved his life by moving in with the cows when he ran out of wood..."

"Oh! won't freeze, they say; but it froze in Turner Valley. Pipes burst and had to be thawed out before the oil would flow to the Calgary refineries."

"... Winter? You kids don't know what real winter is. You should've lived in the winter of '36."

Wife: You don't love me any more. Husband: Why, dear, I do.

Wife: You couldn't love a woman with such old clothes as I have.

A recent bride made her first attempt at cooking and when friend hubby came home he saw a very long pipe on the table.

"Whatever is that, dear?" he asked. "I couldn't get any shorter rhubarb," she complained.

"Keep plugging along. We are winning. Every foot thing that falls leaves one less foot thing to be tied."—L. C. Donnelly, M.D.

## A cozy fire A lovely woman A cup o' tea

We are not concerned with ugly shriveled leaves which color hot water a yellowish brown, but with a cozy fire, the silver tea set, the memory of a lovely woman, a thousand rich and beautiful experiences, haunting pictures of Japanese hillside and sunshine.

In days of old when pirates bold made life hazardous for merchant ships at sea there was a glamor and romance about merchandising which appears to have been lost.

This need not be. Let us think of all the hands which have had a part in putting a spool of silk thread on our local store shelves—the Japanese who picked the silkworm's cocoon, the coolie who hauled it to market, the warehouse men, the spinners, the truckmen at the docks here, the jobbers, the wholesalers, the salesmen, the trainmen, the local express man and finally those who unpack and mark it and have it handy when you want it.

The local merchant represents a long line of servants working for you that you may have a spool of silk or a bit of tea when you want it.

If you knew their inner attitudes you would find that most business men think of their work as a way of rendering human service.

Those who might have once thought of merchandising as a means of amassing a fortune have long since abandoned the thought because they realize it isn't being done any more.

Read the advertisements of your local merchants thinking of the convenient service they render—usually having what you want when you want it, in season and out.

### Gem

(Too Late for Last Week)

GEM, Mar. 31. — A fairly large crowd attended the wheel drive given by the Gem Social Credit group at the school house on Saturday night. First prizes were won by Mrs. E. Turner and Mr. Ralph Robson, while consolation prizes were won by Mrs. T. Harwell and Sidney Bayley.

Cold Douglas is back in Gem and is working at Stander's store.

The wind blew so much during the week-end that the road between Gem and Couture is again blocked. Cars are now travelling across the prairie on the canal bank.

R. Williamson and J. Wallace spent a few days in Calgary last week.

Miss Mabel Douglas of Brooks is staying with Mrs. Rumble now. We are pleased to report that Mrs. Rumble is improving. We wish her a speedy recovery.

Owing to weather conditions and other unforeseen circumstances, the play "Deacon Dubbs" was not presented in Duchesne on Tuesday night. The presentation of the play has been indefinitely postponed.

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"He did," the wife admitted "I came in with muddy boots, leaving a dozen times a day."

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  - COFFEE—Blue Ribbon, Red Rose or Brand's, per tin 35c
  - TEA—Bulk, Broken Orange Pekoe, On Special, per lb 40c
  - SPICES—Any kind, Special, 3 tins for 25c
  - COCOA—Hovmeyer's, 1-lb pkgs 25c
  - ONIONS—Special, 8 lbs for 25c
  - FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES FOR THE WEEK-END
  - ORANGES—Large, 3 doz for \$1
  - BANANAS—2 lbs for 25c
  - HEAD LETTUCE—Large, 2 for 25c
  - APPLES—Roman Beauties, good for cooking, per box \$1.95
  - FRESH AND CURED MEATS
  - Weiners—Pork Sausage—Bacon
  - CHOICE ROASTS—Per lb 25c
  - BOILING AND STEWING BEEF—Per lb 50¢ to 60¢
  - DON'T FORGET WE CARRY A GOOD LINE OF MEN'S, BOYS' AND KIDDEES' BOOTS AND SHOES
  - TOP BOOTS—12", full of wear, reg. \$8, Special \$2.95
  - NEWS WORK SHOES—Reg. \$3.50, Special \$2.95
  - KIDDEES' SHOES—From 7½ up. COME IN AND SEE THEM
  - NEWS WORK SHIRTS 98c and up
  - OVERALLS—White Back, On Special \$1.95
  - MENS JUMPER—Cowboy Style \$1.95
  - WOMENS DRESS CAPS—Special 95c
  - STETSON HATS—Same Price as in States.
  - TYTOS—TOM MIX \$1.50
  - FRIDLEBAND \$1.95
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- COME IN AND LOOK THEM OVER!

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Chancellor

(Too Late for Last Week)

CHANCELLOR, Mar. 29.—Mr. and Mrs. Perry Barker returned to Calgary on Thursday, returning home on Friday afternoon.  
Mr. and Mrs. Jim Paulsen were also visitors to the city on Thursday.  
Glen Phillips, Harry Muir, Henry Carlson and Chris Hansen went to Calgary on Wednesday. Harry Muir left by bus from Calgary for Missouri where he intends to go through a clinic, possibly taking treatment on an operation. The many friends of Harry wish him a speedy recovery to health and an early home-coming.  
Week-end visitors to Calgary were Melvin Muir and Pansel Hovmeyer.  
Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Wheatley went to Glenview where Mr. Wheatley attended a special meeting of the councilors of the Blackfoot municipality. On Tuesday Mr. Wheatley and Mr. Thompson of Glenview went to Calgary to attend another meeting there. Mr. Wheatley remained at Glenview visiting at the Unbright home.  
A special meeting of the representatives of Chancellor School District No. 4803 was called on Saturday afternoon for the purpose of electing three new trustees to act on the school board. At the annual meeting held in January a motion was passed and carried that five members act as trustees on the school board here. As this was not in conformity with the School act, the election was illegal. At the last meeting held today, the ten members serving on the school board resigned, making it necessary to elect an entirely new board of trustees. Mr. N. P. Neilson and Mrs. Annie Fraser were duly elected by acclamation. As none of the trustees present would act on the board, a third trustee must be appointed by the Inspector.  
Mr. and Mrs. Penke entertained at dinner on Saturday night. Their invited guests were: Mr. and Mrs. Hues Huch, Mr. and Mrs. C. P. Dahl, all of Standard, Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Young, Mrs. Harry Muir, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Wheatley, Mr. Fred Whetley, Mr. and Mrs. N. I. Hansen and Mrs. H. Channey and Harry. Owing to the winter weather some were unable to be present.

(Footprints all over the carpet. He took the best place near the fire, and waited to be fed. He growled at me, least provocation, and snuggled at me a dozen times a day.)


Lead Magnesium Bullets

Duck hunters who have tender spots in their hearts for their prey will welcome the invention of Professors Robert Gladding Green and Ralph Dowdell of the University of Minnesota. These two professors have long given thought to the tragedy of ducks which, shot at, manage to escape the death penalty due to the erratic aim of the hunter, yet die a painful death from lead poisoning from the soft-aimed shot which whizzed by them. It seems that ducks, in their search for roughage, frequently eat shot, thereby causing acute indigestion and lead poisoning. The two Minnesota professors have now devised a healthy bullet, guaranteed to cause nothing worse than a very mild attack of indigestion. If it misfires while retaining its deadly qualities if fired by a good marksman. The bullet is made of lead-magnesium alloy and dissolves less than 48 hours after being eaten.—Carbon Chronicle.

Traffic policeman (overlooking a speed hog): Didn't you hear me yelling for you to stop?  
Motorist: Was that you? I'm sorry. I thought it was only someone I'd run over.

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NEW INDUSTRY MOOTED FOR MAGRATH AREA

MAGRATH—Creation of a new industry in Magrath district was discussed last week, following investigations made by a committee of the board of trade.

W. G. Stewart of Western Industries, Calgary, addressed a meeting of local farmers and offered proposals for establishing a plant in Magrath which would use from 5 to 10 tons of potatoes a day in the manufacture of by-products. Only small potatoes and culls would be used and the products would include dry paste powder for paper-hangers, baby powder, corn starch, potato flour, laundry starch, meat packers' and butchers' flour, wall staling, custard powder, paint compound, pulp for stock feed, fertilizer, office paste, maculage and agboard.

Large potatoes, it was explained, would be used for market at a premium and a field run price would be set.

It was proposed to offer 50 per cent of the shares in Magrath district, the Calgary firm to take the remaining shares. There was more good news shown, in raising potatoes for industrial purposes than in growing sugar beets.—Calgary Herald.

Fair to Railways?

When the blizzard spell was at its height all over the province were blocked. In spite of all the snowplows could, road traffic was practically at a standstill. But through it all the old faithful railroads were open. True, some of the trains were running a little late, but they were running. From several places came stories of threatened starvation or suffering from cold because the roads were blocked and the regular supplies of food and fuel could not be brought in. And in every case it was mentioned that the town or village was "without railway accommodation." With a good many of them that was because truck and bus competition had been too strong and the railways had been forced to discontinue operation.  
But how long will that be remembered? It is safe to say that, as soon as conditions become right for road traffic, the railways which served so well when every other means of transportation was tied up will be forgotten and the people will go back to the trucks and buses.

Is that playing the game? Is it fair to the railways to let them stand the expense of bucking snowdrifts in order to keep communication open—and then forget all about them? It is not.—Owen Sound Times.

Bonds Canadian-Owned

OTTAWA.—The bureau of statistics records have shown that out of the issue of \$2,500,000 Alberta bonds were sold to investors in Canada. They were all bearer bonds so no records are available as to where the bonds are now actually held.  
In 1935, from its records, the bureau here estimated the holdings of \$125,000,000 Alberta bonds to include 25 per cent held in the United States, 16 per cent in Great Britain and the balance in Canada.  
Practically all provincial bonds are bearer, negotiable bonds and thus accurate records cannot be given as to present holdings of such bonds.—Calgary Herald.

A Tribute from Will Rogers

How many of you have read the tribute to the home town newspaper that Will Rogers wrote shortly before his death?

"Take away my name," wrote he, "take away my eggs, even chili, but leave me my newspaper. Even if it has such purely local news as 'Jim Jones came home last night unsexed, perfectly and bloodless' or 'Jesse Bushhead, our local M.D., is having one of the best years of his career, practically speaking'—but they are your own folks. So, no matter how punk you may think your local newspaper is, getting, why just let me just own it." "Put it is news to you when you know the people and they are your own folks. So, no matter how punk you may think your local newspaper is, getting, why just let me just own it."

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takes it away from you and see how you feel. This old newspaper, I think, is just about the biggest blessing. So let's all read and be merry for tomorrow the paper may not have enough sale to come out."

"Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ will give us a talk on the uses of fertilizer. I'm sure he's full of his subject," said a chairman of an agricultural meeting in a neighboring town while introducing a speaker.

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